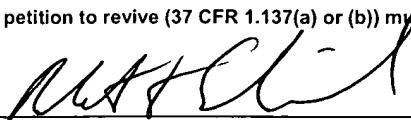


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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1717073
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP2004/005624		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/553939
INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE April 20, 2004		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED April 21, 2003
TITLE OF INVENTION Biodegradable sheet and process for producing the same, biodegradable molded article comprising the sheet, and process for producing the same		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Kenji HASHIMOTO		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). </p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). </p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. </p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p>		
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:		
<p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821- 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Published PCT Application Express Mail Cert., Label No. EU 250 156 451 US ISR</p>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.414 and 1.491-1.492. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public, which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete, including gathering information, preparing, and submitting the completed form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/553939		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP2004/005624	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1717073
The following fees have been submitted		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic national fee.....		\$ 300	
22. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examination fee If International preliminary examination report prepared by USPTO and all claims satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... All other situations.....		\$ 100 \$ 200	\$ 200.00
23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search fee Search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) has been paid on the international application to the USPTO as an International Searching Authority..... International Search Report prepared and provided to the Office..... All other situations.....		\$ 100 \$ 400 \$ 500	\$ 400.00
TOTAL OF 21, 22 and 23 =		\$ 900.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.			
Total Sheets	Extra Sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE
- 100 =	0 /50 =		x \$250
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(h)).		\$ 130.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	- 20 =		x \$ 50
Independent claims	- 3 =		x \$200
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)		+ \$360	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =		\$ 1030.00	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Fees above are reduced by ½.		(515.00)	
		SUBTOTAL =	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(i)).		+ \$	
		TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property		+ \$	
		TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =	
		Amount to be refunded:	\$
		Amount to be charged:	\$
<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>645.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>50-0305</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p>			
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status.			
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:			
Robert J. Schneider Chapman and Cutler LLP 111 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600 Chicago, Illinois 60603 (312) 845-3919			
 SIGNATURE			
Robert J. Schneider NAME			
27,383 REGISTRATION NUMBER			

10/53939
JC12 Rec'd PCT/PTC 21 OCT 2005

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Express Mail Label Number: EU 250 156 451 US

Date of Express Mail Deposit: October 21, 2005

Attorney Docket Number: 1717073

Based on Application: PCT/JP2004/005624

I hereby certify that the attached documents, including the above-referenced Patent Application (HASHIMOTO, inventor), with Transmittal Letter, application data sheet, drawings, ISR, fee check, return postcard, and related PCT documents, together with this Express Mail Certificate, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.


Robert J. Schneider, Registration No. 27,383

October 21, 2005

Date of Signature